Message Text

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TAGS: PGOV, GE, US

SUBJECT: DR. GEYER'S MEETINGS WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

1. DR. HANS-MARTIN GEYER, CHIEF OF THE USA DIVISION OF THE GDR MFA MET WITH EUR/CE OFFICERS AND OTHER INTERESTED DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL AT A ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION IN THE DEPARTMENT JUNE 22. (ALL WERE INTRODUCED) UNFORTUNATELY TIME DID NOT PERMIT QUESTIONING DR. GEYER FOLLOWING HIS LENGTHY REVIEW OF THE STATE OF US-GDR RELATIONS, WHICH ON THE WHOLE WAS OPTIMISTIC. GEYER SINGLED OUT THE RECENTLY EXPANDED IREX PROGRAM AS A VERY POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT AND SAID THAT THE PROGRAM HAD WORKED OUT VERY WELL. HE NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM OF LENGTH OF STAY BY IREX EXCHANGEES WAS LIMITED TO SIX MONTHS BECAUSE THERE IS NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CULTURAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND THE GDR.

2. GEYER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH STATE SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STEUBENRAUCH HAD WITH OFFICIALS AT THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION AND WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. AT NSF, GEYER SAID THAT STEUBENRAUCH

RECEIVED ASSURANCES THAT FUNDS WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE US ACADEMY OF SCIENCES FOR CARRYING OUT SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES WITH THE GDR ACADEMY. GEYER ADDED THAT THE TWO ACADEMIES WERE GETTING CLOSE TO WORKING OUT AN EXCHANGE AGREEMENT, SOMETHING WHICH THE GDR FAVORED VERY MUCH. GEYER SEEMED QUITE PLEASED BY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CULTURAL FIELD, ESPECIALLY WITH THE PLANNING FOR THE FORTHCOMING DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT.

- 4. IN REGARD TO THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST SESSION OF THE US-GDR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL, GEYER SAID THAT BOTH SIDES WERE ANXIOUS TO DEVELOP TRADE AND THAT THE US SIDE WOULD ATTEND THE LEIPZIG FAIR IN 1978 FOR THE NEXT SESSION AT WHICH TIME THERE WOULD BE A CAREFUL REVIEW OF THE PROGRESS MADE BY THEN. GEYER APPEARED ESPECIALLY PLEASED BY THE HIGH LEVEL OF THE US COMPANIES AND THEIR OFFICIALS WHO TOOK PART IN THE FIRST SESSION (AS WAS STATE SECRETARY BEIL). WITHOUT MENTIONING THE QUESTION OF MFN, GEYER DID EXPRESS HOPE THAT SOMEHOW DIFFICULTIES COULD BE ELIMINATED SO THAT BILATERAL TRADE COULD DEVELOP FRUITFULLY.
- 5. TURNING TO POLITICAL RELATIONS, GEYER REITERATED THE GDR'S INTEREST IN HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS AT BOTH THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL AND ALSO AT THE SECRETARYOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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- 6. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON GDR VIEWS ABOUT THE BELGRADE CSCE REVIEW, GEYER TOOK A VERY MODERATE STANCE AND SAID THAT THE MAIN THING WAS TO CONTINUE THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. ALTHOUGH THERE HAD BEEN AND CONTINUED TO BE DIFFERING VIEWS ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF CSCE, THE GDR REMAINED FIRMLY COMMITTED TO IMPLEMENTING ALL PROVISIONS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. GEYER DID NOT MENTION THE SECRETARY'S CSCE REPORT NOR THE GDR PROTEST CONCERNING IT AND WAS COMPLETELY NON-POLEMICAL.
- 7. FOLLOWING THE ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION, GEYER MET WITH EUR ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE. GEYER REPEATED HIS GENERAL VIEW THAT BILATERAL RELATIONS HAD DEVELOPED WELL OVER THE FIRST THREE YEARS AND AGAIN SINGLED OUT THE CULTURAL AND S&T FIELDS AS AREAS IN WHICH THE GDR WAS MOST INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH THE US. GEYER AVOIDED GIVING HIS ASSESSMENT ON HOW THE CONSULAR AGREEMENT PROGLEM COULD BE RESOLVED, CLAIMING THAT THIS QUESTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED AFTER STATE SECRETARY BEIL MADE HIS REPORT TO THE POLITBURO ABOUT THE RESULTS OF HIS US VISIT. GEYER DID STRESS THAT BEIL HAD PAID VERY CAREFUL

ATTENTION TO THE US STATEMENTS ABOUT THE NEED AND DESIRE FOR A CONSULAR AGREEMENT. GEYER DID GO INTO THE QUESTION OF NATIONALITY, NOTING THAT THE GDR HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT DUAL CITIZENS AND WHAT THEIR OBLIGATIONS MIGHT BE TO THEIR COUNTRIES. HE USED THIS AS ONE REASON FOR THE GDR'S INSISTENCE ON A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY. VINE POINTED OUT THAT SUCH PROBLEMS WOULD BE VERY RARE AND ADDED THAT WITHOUT A CONSULAR AGREEMENT EACH SIDE WAS LIMITED SOMEWHAT IN WHAT IT COULD DO TO ASSIST ITS CITIZENS IN THE OTHER COUNTRY.

8. DEPARTMENT FEELS THAT GEYER'S VISIT PROVIDED A US UL OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR HIM OUT AND TO PRESENT US VIEWS ON THE ABOVE SUBJECTS. AS IN THE CASE OF BEIL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WE WERE STRUCK BY GEYER'S RATHER LOW-KEY AND NON-POLITICAL PRESENTATION. THE COMMON THREAD IN GEYER'S REMARKS WAS OPTIMISM ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS. IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT HE WISHED TO STAY AWAY FROM CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS AND DID SO SUCCESSFULLY.

9. AS REQUESTED BY EMBASSY BERLIN, EUR/CE ALSO ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS FOR GEYER AT ERDA AT FEA. HE WILL ALSO MEET WITH FORMER AMBASSADOR COOPER AND FORMER DCM GROVE. CHRISTOPHE R

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